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DEFICIENCIES IN HUNGARIAN MACHINE-TOOL INDUSTRY

The following articles seem to indicate that the Hungarian machine tool industry is still beset by growing pains, such as poor designing, improper finishing, disorganized shops, and a general lack of work synchronization, which make plan fulfillment rare.

Supervisory personnel is criticized and party organs, particularly the trade unions, are exhorted to overcome the deficiencies through organized work competition and wider dissemination of Stakhanovite techniques.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources. 7

ANALYZE LAG IN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 4 Sep 52

Since becoming a people's republic, Hungary has developed a modern machine-tool industry which supplies not only her internal needs, but is recognized and respected abroad. From 1949 - 1951, the output of lathed products more than tripled. Hungarian engineers have designed a whole series of new lathes, milling machines, and other high-capacity machine tools.

The rapid industrialization of the country demands an increasing supply of machine tools; yet, the machine-tool industry fulfilled its plan only 91 per cent during the first half of 1952 and was still behind schedule in July and August. Machine-tool production is characterized by slack periods at the beginning of each month followed by rush work at the end of the month which fails to compensate for the period of near idleness. Such fluctuation retards industry at home and interferes with the plans of the neighboring people's republics since they cannot depend on receiving their orders on time.

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Although the machine industry has to contend with all the problems which arise from lack of experience, most of its difficulties are self-caused.

To begin with, blueprints are carelessly prepared; technical instructions lack explicit details; supplies are distributed in a hit or miss fashion which obliges workers to waste hours looking for the right tool. Then, to complete the confusion, blueprints, instructions, and supplies seldom arrive punctually enough to permit the shops to coordinate the various phases of production. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the month ends with rush work and confusion. Since the workers are required to be punctual, disciplined, and efficient, they have the right to expect the same of the engineers, foremen, and the rest of the managing personnel. The party organizations must pay more attention to the political training of technical personnel at supervisory levels.

Lack of cooperation between plants, plant divisions, and subcontractors is another deterrent to production. When tardy deliveries from the foundry delay the work of the machine shop, the work of the assembling shop is also held up, and the entire plant is prevented from fulfilling its plan. This is one example of the far-reaching effects of improper coordination. In the course of supervising production, party organizations must make a special issue of rigid adherence to delivery dates and cooperation between shops and plants.

The final and perhaps greatest problem of the machine-tool industry is poor quality. Although the foundries generally deliver their work punctually, they frequently send faulty castings. When these faults are not discovered until the machines are assembled, great damages result and much time is lost. For example, the Rakosi Matyas Szerszameggyar, (Matyas Rakosi Machine-Tool Factory) became aware that the gears of one of the machines had been improperly ground only when the assembled machine was actually being tested, and the whole shipment had to be held up until this fault was corrected. Often, the faulty work is due to neglected or inaccurately adjusted machinery. The machine-tool factories must make a concerted effort to get perfect work in every phase of production.

All these faults are closely related to the fact that work competition has been neglected at the machine tool factories. They are not taking full advantage of the workers' initiative. The director of the Femaru es Szerszameggyar (Metal Goods and Machine Tool Factory) feels that the factory can fulfill its plan only if the ministry assigns him more skilled workers. Actually, there would be no shortage in skilled labor if the plant's 148 Stakhanovites would teach their work methods to the 120 young workers and other inexperienced employees who are not fulfilling their norms.

By failing to promote the Roder movement, the trade union is neglecting one of the best means of increasing production. The trade unions are apt to fritter away their energy on minor tasks instead of bringing them to bear on vital points, such as initiating drives for better quality, more complete utilization of production equipment, and the propagation of Stakhanovite work techniques.

Despite the late start of the Hungarian machine tool industry, two plants, the Femaru es Szerszameggyar (Metal Goods and Machine Tool Factory) and the Esztergomi Szerszameggyar (Esztergom Machine Tool Factory) have proved that they can exceed the plan and do quality work as well. The very best of Hungary's manpower is working in the machine-tool field, so there is every possibility of making up the lag and fulfilling the plan for the current crucial year.

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FIND PRODUCTION UNEVEN -- Budapest, Esti Budapest, 23 Aug 52

Although some divisions of the Rakosi Matyas Muvek (Matyas Rakosi Works) made an excellent showing in the Constitution Day work competition, and completed as much as 65 percent of the monthly plan during the first two decades, these outstanding results do not apply to the enterprise as a whole. Production at the machine tool factory, steel works, and tube factory divisions was far below plan requirements for the first two weeks of August.

WILL MAKE HYDRAULIC MILLING MACHINES -- Budapest, Esti Budapest, 6 Sep 52

The machine-tool division of the Rakosi Matyas Muvek will begin manufacturing up-to-date, hydraulic milling machines adapted to mass production. The machines have a maximum speed of 2,500 revolutions per minute as against the previous record of 1,500 revolutions per minute.

The machines will be produced in series. The parts are being cast at the foundry of the Matyas Rakosi Works.

SCORE MACHINE TOOL PLANTS -- Budapest, Esti Budapest, 4 Sep 52

At the Budapesti Szerszameggyar (Budapest Machine Tool Factory), certain workers have been slacking for weeks because a previous shortage of roller bearings tied up production. Led by Andras Veghelyi, a shop foreman, they take the attitude that there is no point in working, since roller bearings are unavailable. Consequently, the plant's production, which had already hit a low of 39.5 percent in July, dropped to 34.5 percent during August.

Short-sighted management, lack of systematic planning, and poor cooperation are causing production irregularities at the Femarus Szerszameggyar (Metal Goods and Machine Tool Factory). In July for example, the factory fulfilled its finished goods plan by only 37.3 percent, whereas in August, fulfillment jumped to 111.6 percent.

Steps are being taken to make production flow more smoothly.

URGE SHIPMENT OF MACHINE PARTS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 4 Sep 52

Afraid that their plant would be prevented from fulfilling its plan, the Stakhanovites of the Hazai Pamatszovogyar (National Cotton Spinning Mills) have written an open letter to the Budapesti Szerszameggyar (Budapest Machine Tool Factory) urging the speedy delivery of long overdue machine parts.

The gist of the letter is as follows: "We have repeatedly asked you to send our order for the third quarter as soon as possible. You were to have begun delivering various machine parts as early as 1 July 1952, but to date, we have received nothing. As you know, our machinery is old and neglected. It was left to us in that condition by the capitalist regime, and now we are unable to recondition and repair this machinery which breaks down constantly because you do not send us the necessary parts.

"We are working for export, but we will be unable to do our part unless you ship the machine parts on time. Our whole plant is counting on you to help us prevent this disgrace to ourselves and loss to our republic."

"Do not keep us from doing our duty."

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